

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing modified gum arabic, the method comprising the step of heating gum arabic under dry conditions.
2. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, the method comprising the step of heating gum arabic in such a manner that the loss-on-drying is not more than 3%.
3. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, wherein gum arabic is heated at a temperature of 90°C to 180°C.
4. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of drying gum arabic until the loss-on-drying is not more than 3%, and subsequently heating the dried gum arabic.
5. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, wherein gum arabic is heated at reduced pressure.
6. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, wherein gum arabic to be heat treated has an average particle diameter of not more than 1.5 mm.
7. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, wherein gum arabic to be heat treated is spray-dried.
8. The method for producing modified gum arabic according to Claim 1, wherein discoloration is suppressed and emulsifying ability is increased in the modified gum arabic.
9. Modified gum arabic, which is obtained by a production method of Claim 1.
10. An emulsifier, comprising as an active ingredient a modified gum

arabic obtained by a production method of Claim 1.

11. A method for preparing an emulsion, wherein a modified gum arabic obtained by a production method of Claim 1 is used as an emulsifier.

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12. The method for preparing an emulsion according to Claim 11, wherein the emulsion is an O/W or W/O/W emulsion which contains, as a dispersoid, at least one hydrophobic substance selected from the group consisting of essential oils, oil-based flavorings, oil-based colorants, fat-soluble vitamins, polyunsaturated fatty acids, animal oils, vegetable oils, sucrose acetate isobutyrate, and medium-chain triglycerides.

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13. An emulsion, which is prepared by a preparation method of Claim 11.

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14. The emulsion according to Claim 13, which is an O/W or W/O/W emulsion containing, as a dispersoid, at least one hydrophobic substance selected from the group consisting of essential oils, oil-based flavorings, oil-based colorants, fat-soluble vitamins, polyunsaturated fatty acids, animal oils, vegetable oils, sucrose acetate isobutyrate, and medium-chain triglycerides.

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15. Use of a modified gum arabic obtained by a production method of Claim 1 for preparing an emulsifier.

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16. Use of a modified gum arabic obtained by a production method of Claim 1 for preparing an emulsion.